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ABSTRACT

Data on the Graduate Record Examination covering the period from October 1970 through September 1971 and covering all score reports forwarded to the University of Washington during the year are given. Scores are included not only for students who completed applications but for those who may have submitted only GRE scores. Table 1 reports data extracted from summary reports received for the individual departments. (CK)

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Bureau of Testing

University of Washington

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For the first time the Graduate Record Examination Board has prepared and released summary data relating to scores from GRE tests forwarded to participating institutions. These data cover the period from October 1970 through September 1971 and, although the method of assembling the scores makes interpretation less than precise, the results should be of interest to departments utilizing GRE scores in assessing applicants for graduate study.

These data cover all score reports forwarded to the University during the year. Thus, the interpretation of the statistics for any particular department must depend upon the policies and practices of that department. For example, if a department utilizes the GRE advanced, subject matter test as part of a qualifying or preliminary examination for students already in residence those results will be lumped, for the year, with test scores forwarded at the request of applicants for admissions. Because of the dragnet nature of the summary, scores are included not only for students who completed applications but for those who may have submitted only GRE scores.

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Departments will need to compare the number of students for whom these data are reported with the number of applications processed, number admitted, etc., if they are to compensate for these problems.

Table 1 reports data extracted from summary reports received for the individual departments. (These departmental summaries are being forwarded, together with this report, to individual departments.) It is noteworthy that, over most graduate programs, the University data are superior to comparable data across all U.S. graduate institutions. The sixty-three hundred students sending GRE results to the University earned average scores of 568 and 589 on the verbal and quantitative aptitude tests while the national averages for those tests were 504 and 517, respectively. To cite the first department listed in Table 1, 144 UW applicants in anthropology earned averages of 590 and 555 while nationally (for 9000 students applying to graduate programs in anthropology) these averages were 575 and 535.

As a rule of thumb, for UW samples of about 100 a difference of 25 score points between national and local averages can be regarded as representing a "real" difference; for samples of 50 students that difference should be expanded to about 40 points to compensate for sampling error. The Bureau of Testing will be pleased to provide departments or others interested with additional, available information on the GRE program.

Table 1

Comparison of Average GRE Scores Reported Nationally and to the University of Washington, 1970-1971[1]

Graduate[2] Program	Verbal Aptitude			Quantitative Aptitude			Advanced[3] Test		
	US $\bar{X}$	UW $\bar{X}$	UW n	US $\bar{X}$	UW $\bar{X}$	UW n	US $\bar{X}$	UW $\bar{X}$	UW n
All University	504[a]	568	6343	517[a]	589	6341			
Anthropology	575	590	144	535	555	144	550	564	62
Architecture	544	558	54	616	641	54			
Astronomy	598	592	48	716	730	48	619	618	51[b]
Biochemistry	491	569	146	566	662	146	631	627	84[c]
Biological Sciences	525	551	114	598	639	114	636	663	86[d]
Biology	522	559	86	580	614	86	626	664	69[d]
Botany	500	552	60	591	620	60	640	669	51[d]
Business & Commerce	471	506	48	562	618	48			
Chemical Engineering	438	426	70	663	686	70	674	679	57[e]
Chemistry	481	526	92	654	689	92	661	668	98
Communications	555	544	79	520	501	79			
Comparative Lit.	641	648	38	542	567	38			
Computer Sciences	498	551	45	692	729	45			
Dentistry	498	495	40	550	581	40			
Dramatic Arts	551	544	50	497	509	50			
Economics	522	556	147	616	645	147	626	652	129
Education	490	550	242	478	512	242	468	512	46
Educational Psych.	532	563	38	515	512	38			
Electrical Engineer.	437	460	41	688	704	41	649	692	26[e]
Engineering	466	512	33	672	688	33			
English	604	638	345	514	559	345	576	598	346[f]
F. Eastern Lang. & L.	624	612	45	555	543	45			
Forestry	478	537	49	585	642	49			
French	566	552	34	499	515	34	562	586	33[d]
Genetics	549	579	59	619	662	59	667	704	51[d]
Geography	505	540	59	546	612	59	499	538	36
Geology	513	559	158	602	640	158	583	614	134
History	567	595	329	514	536	328	559	576	257

[1] In each instance the data reported are the national average (US $\bar{X}$), the University average (UW $\bar{X}$) and the number of scores reported to the University (UW n).

[2] Program names are those employed by GRE.

[3] Advanced Test is the achievement test in the same area as the named program except in those instances footnoted b-f.

[a] These two averages are for the three year period 1968-1971. All other averages are for the single year 1970-1971.

Advanced Tests: Physics[b], Chemistry[c], Biology[d], Engineering[e], and Literature[f].

Table 1 (continued)

Comparison of Average GRE Scores Reported Nationally and to the University of Washington, 1970-1971[1]

Graduate[2] Program	Verbal Aptitude			Quantitative Aptitude			Advanced[3] Test		
	US $\bar{X}$	UW $\bar{X}$	UW n	US $\bar{X}$	UW $\bar{X}$	UW n	US $\bar{X}$	UW $\bar{X}$	UW n
Library Science	557	597	165	487	512	165			
Mathematics	522	592	142	692	740	142	709	788	142[d]
Microbiology	501	548	54	573	619	54	610	655	41[d]
Nursing	509	509	197	461	473	197			
Oceanography	535	550	231	631	652	231	635	657	79[d]
Philosophy	619	628	41	583	604	41	666	686	30
Physics	519	579	156	704	728	156	674	691	190
Physiology	526	570	37	592	606	37			
Political Science	560	587	151	532	551	151	518	534	114
Psychology	559	588	899	556	586	899	557	581	697
Pub. Administration	515	544	42	528	551	42			
Social Sciences	533	580	45	523	558	45			
Social Work	510	540	75	474	510	75			
Sociology	535	564	196	517	545	196	530	570	148
Spanish	512	548	27	458	470	27	560	568	30
Speech	499	529	48	475	530	48			
Urban Development	550	555	165	570	590	165			
Zoology	538	601	200	595	635	200	651	705	189[d]

[1] In each instance the data reported are the national average (US $\bar{X}$), the University average (UW $\bar{X}$) and the number of scores reported to the University (UW n).

[2] Program names are those employed by GRE.

[3] Advanced Test is the achievement test in the same area as the named program except in those instances footnoted b-f

Advanced Tests: Physics[b], Chemistry[c], Biology[d], Engineering[e], and Literature[f].